

From: [McAteer, Mike](#)
To: [Marquis, James](#)
Cc: [Schaefer, Jeremy R](#); [Lyssy, Gregory](#); [R6HarveyInfo](#)
Subject: RE: EPA Investigating "Potentially Hazardous" Plume From Houston Refinery - TX-MMC Update 173 [HARVEY Response and Recovery Effort - Gulf Coast, U.S.] NOC 0604-17
Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 9:51:34 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Jim.... EPA is aware of the situation at Valero in the Manchester neighborhood and has an OSC on site.... I will get more information on the situation tomorrow and keep you all updated. Thanks.



From: Marquis, James [mailto:james.marquis@fema.dhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 05, 2017 7:11 PM
To: McAteer, Mike <mcateer.mike@epa.gov>
Cc: Schaefer, Jeremy R <Jeremy.Schaefer2@fema.dhs.gov>
Subject: FW: EPA Investigating 'Potentially Hazardous' Plume From Houston Refinery - TX-MMC Update 173 [HARVEY Response and Recovery Effort - Gulf Coast, U.S.] NOC 0604-17

Hi Mike,

This has visibility so whatever updates come in please pass them along.

Thanks,

Jim



James W. Marquis
Emergency Services Branch Director | National Incident Management Assistance Team - West | 202.384.5597 |
james.marquis@fema.dhs.gov
Currently deployed to Texas as Deputy ESB for FEMA-4332-DR-TX Hurricane Harvey

From: Chandler, Jacqueline

Sent: Tuesday, September 05, 2017 7:07 PM

Subject: FW: EPA Investigating 'Potentially Hazardous' Plume From Houston Refinery - TX-MMC Update 173 [HARVEY Response and Recovery Effort - Gulf Coast, U.S.] NOC 0604-17

From: NOC Media Monitoring [<mailto:mmc@techopsolutions.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 7:50 PM

To: noc.mmc@hq.dhs.gov

Subject: EPA Investigating 'Potentially Hazardous' Plume From Houston Refinery - TX-MMC Update 173 [HARVEY Response and Recovery Effort - Gulf Coast, U.S.] NOC 0604-17

Location(s): Houston, Texas

The city of Houston, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and an environmental advocacy group are investigating a potentially hazardous plume of a carcinogenic substance in one neighborhood after a nearby oil refiner reported its operations suffered hurricane-related damage, media reported Tuesday.

The city and the Environmental Defense Fund said extra air monitors dispatched to Houston's Manchester region on Monday detected the presence of benzene, a component of crude oil and gasoline. Two monitors detected significantly different levels of the carcinogen at different times of the day, and additional sampling is needed to determine the concentration, according to senior scientists involved in the investigation.

The EPA said it deployed an air monitor to the area to help the investigation. Officials are seeking to pinpoint the source of the benzene plume, the concentration and how far-reaching the emissions may have spread, officials said.

The Manchester oil refinery is a subsidiary of Valero Energy Partners and said the leak on August 27 resulted in the emission of benzene and other hazardous compounds. A statement said the company's air-quality monitoring found "no detectable levels of emissions in the community."

Valero's disclosure was one of 56 preliminary emissions reports citing Hurricane Harvey that the state received from petroleum and chemical companies as of August 31. Those Harvey-related emissions released nearly 1 million pounds of seven toxic compounds, including benzene, the state reported.

Traditional Media Sources (some page content may change or not be available over time):

- Wall Street Journal

-- <http://on.wsj.com/2gEbzvl>

The above information summarizes emerging open source reporting that has not been corroborated by official government sources. It is provided to rapidly enhance situational awareness on items of interest to the homeland security enterprise.

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